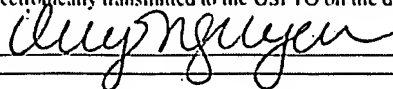


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: July 10, 2008

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 (Quyen B. Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,739  
Confirmation No.: 6427  
Filing Date: March 10, 2004  
Inventor(s): George D. HERMANN et al.  
Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE  
APPROXIMATION OF MUSCLE AND OTHER TISSUE  
Examiner: Melissa K. Ryckman  
Group Art Unit: 3773

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 10, 2008 for which a response was due on April 10, 2008. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to July 10, 2008.

Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.